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Message Text

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40
ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00

HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00

USIA-15 EB-07 SP-02 L-03 NSC-05 IGA-01 SAJ-01 COME-00

AGR-10 DHA-02 INT-05 PM-03 BIB-01 CIEP-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /103 W
---------- 113762
P R 091625Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3480
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 3155

GENEVA PASS UNDRO FOR BERKOL

FOR AID/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, RO
SUBJECT: DIASTER RELIEF--ROMANIA FOOD

1. SUMMARY: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA JULY 9 CALLED AMB-
ASSADOR IN TO GIVE HIM FIRST PRELIMINARY ACCOUNT OF FLOOD
DAMAGE AND MADE APPEAL FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE. GLIGA
PUT PRIMARY STRESS ON DAMAGE TO INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE
AND LINES OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION.
POPULATION CENTRES NOT AS SEVERLY AFFECTED AS BY
1970 FLOODS, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME LOSS
OF LIFE (60 PERSONS) AND GLIGA ANTICIPATES NEED
FOR MEDICINES, ANTIBIOTICS AND DISINFECTANTS.
MORE IMPORTANT FOR RETURN TO NORMALCY, ACCORDING
TO GLIGA, WILL BE REPLENISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RAW
MATERIALS STOCKS DESTROYED BY FLOODS, CONSTRUCTION
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MATERIALS FOR REBUILDING DAMAGED ROADS, RAIL LINES,

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POWER GRID AND FACTORIES, AND CEREALS AND
ANIMAL FEED TO REPLACE DEVASTATED CROPS. AMBASSADOR
NOTED THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE AS IN 1970 OF EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE WE HAD OFFERED WOULD BE TO MEET IMMEDIATE
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS, ALTHOUGH SHORT-TERM REHABILITATION
AID, WHICH WOULD SEEM TO CORRESPOND MORE CLOSELY
TO SITUATION GLIGA HAD OUTLINED, MIGHT ALSO BE
AVAILABLE. EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER WILL MEET
JULY 10 WITH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY OFFICIALS,
WHO ARE COORDINATING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE, TO OBTAIN
MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF ROMANIAN NEEDS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRELIMINARY REPORTS, GLIGA SAID, SHOW THAT
ABOUT 150 INDUSTRIAL PLANTS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED
BY FLOODS, ESPECIALLY CHEMICALS/PETROCHEMICALS,
LIGHT INDUSTRY, AND BUILDING MATERIALS. SOME ARE
SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AND OUT OF ACTION, OTHERS REDUCED
TO LOW OUTPUT FOR SOME TIME IN FUTURE. ROAD AND
RAIL LINES SEVERELY DISRUPTED AND STILL NOT
REPAIRED, BRIDGES AND HIGH-VOLTAGE POWER LINES WASHED
OUT. STOCKS OF FUELS AND INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS
BADLY DAMAGED, AS WELL AS SOME LOSSES OF FINISHED
PRODUCTS. CEREAL CROPS PARTICULARLY AFFECTED SINCE
FLOODS CAME JUST AT HARVEST TIME. AGRICULTURAL
LOSSES ARE PARTICULARLY SEVERE IN SOUTHERN ROMANIA,
WHERE DANUBE IS STILL RISING AND THREATENS FURTHER
DAMAGE.

3. FOR RETURN TO NORMALCY, GLIGA SAID, ROMANIA
WILL NEED INCREASED OUTSIDE SUPPLIES OF INDUSTRIAL
RAW MATERIALS (INCLUDING COKE AND COKING COAL),
CEREALS, SOYBEANS, CORN AND/OR CONCENTRATED ANIMAL
FEEDS, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS TO
REPAIR INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE (PIPES, STEEL,
REINFORCED CONCRETE, CABLES, TRANSFORMERS, PUMP),
COTTON, AND SOME MEDICAL SUPPLIES SUCH AS ANTIBIOTICS
AND DISINFECTANTS. FOR THE LONGER TERM, LONG-TERM
LOW-INTEREST CREDITS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO FINANCE
INCREASED IMPORT NEEDS, AS WOULD HELP IN EXPANDING
ROMANIAN EXPORTS. GLIGA SAID MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
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TRADE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH COORDINATING EXTERNAL
ASSISTANCE, UNLIKE 1970, WHEN SPECIAL TASK FORCE
SET UP. DIFFERENCE RELATED TO MORE SEVERE IMPACT
OF 1970 FLOODS ON POPULATION CENTRES, GREATER
INDUSTRIAL DAMAGE THIS YEAR. CONTRARY TO OUR
EARLIER UNDERSTANDING GLIGA SAID 60 PEOPLE HAD
DIED FROM FLOODS AND ASSOCIATED LAND SLIDES.
GLIGA PROPOSED MEETING JULY 10 BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICER

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AND MFT OFFICIALS FOR MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION.
AMBASSADOR AGREED AFTER POINTING OUT THAT PRIMARY
AIM OF U.S. ASSISTANCE OFFER WAS TO MEET IMMEDIATE
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS, AND ALTHOUGH SOME REHABILITATION
ASSISTANCE OF TYPE GLIGA HAD OUTLINED MIGHT BE
AVAILABLE, REQUESTS MIGHT EXCEED U.S. ABILITY
TO RESPOND.

4. GLIGA SAID U.S. WAS FIRST COUNTRY ROMANIA HAD
APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE
FOR HELP IN 1970 AS WELL AS PRESENT OFFER. ROMANIA
WILL ALSO APPROACH OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT
HAS STRONG TIES IN COMING DAYS (HE MENTIONED
FRG SPECIFICALLY), AS WELL AS EXPLORING ABILITY OF
SPECIALIZED UN AGENCIES TO ASSIST. EMBASSY WILL
MONITOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT.
BARNES

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